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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/681,242	03/05/2001	Damian Porcari	201-0261	6966

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DEARBORN, MI 48126

EXAMINER

LEMMA, SAMSON B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2132

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/681,242

Applicant(s)

PORCARI, DAMIAN

Examiner

Samson B. Lemma

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 24-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1,8-9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the election/restriction made on the previous office action. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-9 in the reply filed on 04/25/2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that applicant believed that claims 1-23 as previously presented could be searched and examined in one application without undue hardship on the office. This is not found persuasive because the claims as shown on previous offices are distinctive and have required a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification. The restriction is still deemed proper. Therefore Applicant election of group I, claims 1-9, is considered/examined together with a new claims 24-38 added by the applicant. Applicants traverse of the restriction is also moot since claims 10-23 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 25-31; 33-38** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated

by Lemble (hereinafter referred as **Lemble**) U.S. Patent No. 5, 315, 504 (provided with the IDS)

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4. **As per claim 1, Lemble** discloses a method of approving a document comprising:
- storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document;**[Column 5, lines 44-48; figure 6; column 6, lines 35-36; Abstract; column 4, lines 4-12; claim 2; column 12, lines 61-63] (Accessing is done through a logon tables including user Identification which will prevent alteration or modification of the document by illegal means as explained on column 6, lines 35-36; column 4, lines 4-12 and column 12, lines 61-63 furthermore the storing of the document in storage area is explained on the abstract and on column 5, lines 44-48 and figure 6 and claim 2]
- advising an approver that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;**[Abstract] (The advising step as explained on the disclosure and on the dependent claim 6, is providing an email to the approver and this feature is explained on the abstract)
- allowing the approver to review the document;** [column 9, lines 53-56] (The reviewer or the approver will review the document to either approve or disapprove the document as explained on column 9, lines 53-56)
- prompting approval by the approver;**[column 5, lines 21-25; Abstract; figure 6] (Before the reviewer approve/disapprove the document, is prompted as the document is forwarded for approval by the approver as indicated on column 5, lines 21-25 and on the abstract and furthermore shown on figure 6]
- recording the date of approval;** [column 10, lines 45-52]and
- recording the approved document.**[Column 6, lines 18] (After approval as shown on figure 6 the document is finally forwarded/recorded in to the storage as explained on column 6, line 18]

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5. **As per claim 26 and 35-37, Lemble** discloses a method of approving a document comprising:
- storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document;**[Column 5, lines 44-48; figure 6; column 6, lines 35-36; Abstract; column 4, lines 4-12; claim 2; column 12, lines 61-63] (Accessing is done through a logon tables including user Identification which will prevent alteration or modification of the document by illegal means as explained on column 6, lines 35-36; column 4, lines 4-12 and column 12, lines 61-63 furthermore the storing of the document in storage area is explained on the abstract and on column 5, lines 44-48 and figure 6 and claim 2]
- advising two or more approvers that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;**[Abstract; figure 4] (The advising step as explained on the disclosure and on the dependent claim 6, is providing an email to the approver or approvers as shown on figure 4 and this feature is explained on the abstract and on figure 4)
- allowing each approver to review the document;** [figure 4, column 9, lines 53-56] (Each reviewer or the approver will review the document to either approve or disapprove the document as explained on column 9, lines 53-56)
- prompting approval by the approver, said prompting step includes displaying text;**[column 5, lines 21-25; Abstract; figure 6] (Before the reviewer approve/disapprove the document, is prompted as the document is forwarded/electronically emailed for approval by the approver as indicated on column 5, lines 21-25 and on the abstract and furthermore shown on figure 6 and displaying text is inherently included in the prompting step]
- recording the date of approval for each approver;** [column 10, lines 45-52]
- and

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recording the approval text; [column 19, lines 1-14] (the approval text is recorded as for instance shown on column 19, lines 1-14]

recording the approved document.[Column 6, lines 18] (After approval as shown on figure 6 the document is finally forwarded/recorded in to the storage as explained on column 6, line 18]

6. **As per claims 2 & 27, Lemble** discloses the method of approving a document as applied to claims above. Furthermore Morris discloses the methods further comprising the step of generating an approval log.[column 19, lines 1-14] (This is one form of approval log that combines the approver and the approval information)
7. **As per claims 3-4 & 28-29, Lemble** discloses the method of approving a document as applied to claims above. Furthermore Morris discloses the methods *further comprising associating* the approval log with a unique file record.[column 19, lines 1-14] (Each document/file is uniquely identified by the subject/title as for instance shown on figure 19, lines 1-14]
8. **As per claims 5, 30 and 38, Lemble** discloses the method of approving a document as applied to claims above. Furthermore Morris discloses the methods *further comprising multiple* approvers approving a document and recording each approver's *approval*. [see figure 4]
9. **As per claims 6 & 31 Lemble** discloses the method of approving a document as applied to claims above. Furthermore Morris discloses the methods wherein the advising step comprises providing an email to the approver and proving a hyperlink to the document. [Abstract]
10. **As per claims 8-9 and 33-34, Lemble** discloses the method of approving a document as applied to claims above. Furthermore Morris discloses the method

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further comprising the step of allowing access to the central storage area to view the approval record and storing this approval text in the central storage area.[figure 6]

11. **As per claims 25, Lemble** discloses the method of approving a document as applied to claims above. Furthermore Morris discloses the method, *wherein* **After said prompting approval step, an approver does not approve the document;**[figure 11, see “reject/disapprove”];
- Repeating advising an approver that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;** [Abstract; figure 4] (The advising step as explained on the disclosure and on the dependent claim 6, is providing an email to the approver or approvers as shown on figure 4 and this feature is explained on the abstract and on figure 4)
- Repeating allowing the approver to review the document; [figure 4, column 9, lines 53-56] (Each reviewer or the approver will review the document to either approve or disapprove the document as explained on column 9, lines 53-56)
- Repeating prompting approval by the approver. ;[column 5, lines 21-25; Abstract; figure 6] (Before the reviewer approve/disapprove the document, is prompted as the document is forwarded for approval by the approver as indicated on column 5, lines 21-25 and on the abstract and furthermore shown on figure 6]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. **Claims 7, 24 & 32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lemble (hereinafter referred as **Lemble**) U.S. Patent No. 5, 315, 504 (provided with the IDS) in view of Takano et al. (hereinafter referred as **Takano**)(U.S. Patent No. 6,434,580)

14. **As per claims 7, 24 and 32 Lemble** discloses a method for selecting a document from a group of different document that needs an approval by the approver. [Abstract]

Lemble does not explicitly teach that the document is an invention disclosure and is selected from a group consisting of a patent application, a trademark application and assignment document and power of attorney.

However, in the same field of endeavor, **Takano** discloses all these features inherently/implicitly that the document is an invention disclosure and is selected from a group consisting of a patent application, a trademark application and assignment document and power of attorney.[See for instance, column 1, lines 1-19 and column 2, lines 1-10]

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the features of having a document which is an invention disclosure and being selected from a group as per teachings of **Takano** in to the method of as taught by Lemble for the purpose of conveniently revising a patent application by the filing persons including a patent power of attorney/attorney by transmitting relevant data to each other. [See **Takano** column 1, lines 65-last line and column 2, lines 5-10]

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Conclusion

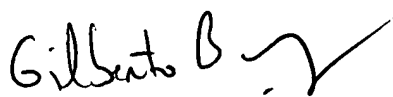
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samson B Lemma whose telephone number is 571-272-3806. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am---4:30 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BARRON JR GILBERTO can be reached 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SAMSON LEMMA

S.L.

07/12/2005


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